

EXTRACT

Hearing held before Committee on Armed Services - Nomination of John A. McCone to be Director of Central Intelligence - Thursday, 13 January 1962

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"CHAIRMAN RUSSELL. Do you consider that your responsibility is subject only to the overriding authority of the Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States?"

MR. McCONE. That is correct."

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"SENATOR SYMINGTON....

I never saw this statement of Senator McCarthy's before, but there are some questions in it that might be asked by people who read it.

First, on page 2, it says that:

'Intelligence is too important to be left to the unsupervised,' a quotation of Mr. Hansen Baldwin of the New York Times. I would estimate that in many cases, Mr. McCone, you will be the most supervised man in the Government, because, to the best of my knowledge, yours is the only operating agency that, in effect, reports to a council, the National Security Council in this case, although inasmuch as that is an advisory body to the President, in effect, you, therefore, report directly to the President.

But is there any belief or feeling, let alone conviction, on your part that you will be unsupervised in this position?

MR. McCONE. No, Senator Symington.

I think that with respect to the areas of greatest concern that there is adequate supervisory machinery established."

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"SENATOR CANNON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. McCone, there was one point raised this morning that left some confusion in my mind, and I would like to correct the record on it.

When Senator McCarthy referred to a quotation of Hansen Baldwin in which he said, 'It should be clear that intelligence is too important to be left to the unsupervised,' I gathered the impression from the answer that actually the CIA was supervised by some agency, and I do not believe that is correct.

I wonder, would you care to state is there any agency that supervises, exercises supervisory control over the CIA?

MR. McCONE. No, there is none. I am sorry if my response gave that impression. There is none.

SENATOR CANNON. I think that the inference was made that the National Security Council, perhaps, exercised some supervisory power, but they simply recommend, make recommendations to the President, is that correct?

MR. McCONE. Yes. By law the agency reports to the National Security Council, and the National Security Council takes a very considerable cognizance, it has in the past, over the operations of the agency. But I wouldn't term it that that was supervisory. However, the point that I was making was that in many fields of our activities, our foreign activities, there is established and under this administration and the past, proper supervisory arrangements of an interdepartmental nature."

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